

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-12 are in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Dopper et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041873*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to a device for loading a closure plug into a patient connector (PK) for peritoneal dialysis, whereas *Dopper* describes a device which is initially provided with a closure plug, the closure plug being caused to move in a linear direction from a first position into a second position in which the fluid flow between the first tube and the second tube is closed while the first tube is sealed off. (see para. 8 of *Dopper*).

In contrast, the device of the present invention permits loading, under sterile conditions, of a patient connector whose closure plug has already been used, with a new closure plug (p. 2 second paragraph of specification). This feature is not taught or suggested by *Dopper*.



Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are patentable over Dopper. Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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